

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O P 101320Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7852

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION US BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS SETS EXHORBITANT PRICE FOR RESUMPTION OF
JOINT CDU/CSU "FRAKTION"

1. SUMMARY: CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS HAS SET FORTH EXTREMELY STRINGENT "PRECONDITIONS" (VORAUSSETZUNGEN) FOR RESUMPTION OF JOINT CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION." IF THESE WERE MET, CSU WOULD ACHIEVE FORMAL RECONSTITUTION OF JOINT "FRAKTION" UNDER KOHL PLUS RIGHT TO NAME BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT, WHILE CSU WOULD OBTAIN EQUAL VOICE IN ALL KEY "FRAKTION" DECISIONS PLUS GUARANTEED VETOPOWER OVER MATTERS OF UNION PARTIES' BASIC POLITICAL STRATEGY ON FEDERAL AND "LAENDER" LEVELS. CSU WOULD ALSO GAIN RIGHT IN EVENT OF CDU/CSU DIFFERENCES ON KEY ISSUES, TO REPRESENT ITS OWN VIEWS BEFORE BUNDESTAG. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM WITHIN CSU, HE IS STILL CALLING THE SHOTS.

END SUMMARY.

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2. IN EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 9 FOLLOWING LENGTHY

MEETING OF CSU EXEC. COMMITTEE AND CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES, CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS STATED THAT CSU WOULD BE WILLING TO RECONSTITUTE JOINT CDU/CSU "FRAKTION" IF EIGHT PRECONDITIONS WERE ACCEPTED BY CDU. THESE ARE SUMMARIZED WITH COMMENTARY BELOW:

(A) CDU TO ACKNOWLEDGE CSU CLAIM TO BE FRG-WIDE PARTY LIKE CDU;

(B) THE JOINT "FRAKTION" WOULD CONSIST OF TWO GROUPS (COMMENT: THIS WOULD DIFFER FROM PAST WHEN CSU "LANDESGRUPPE" WAS A SUB-UNIT OF UNIFIED "FRAKTION.");

(C) ON ISSUES OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE (E.G. SUCH PAST ISSUES AS MOSCOW AND WARSAW TREATIES, ENTRY OF TWO GERMANIES INTO U.N., ETC.) ON WHICH CSU VIEW DIFFERS FROM CDU, CSU WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT ITS VIEW IN BUNDESTAG;

(D) CHAIRMAN OF CDU AND CSU COMMIT THEMSELVES TO MAKE EFFORT THAT FORMATION OF COALITIONS ON "LAENDER" LEVEL NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO PREJUDICE CREDIBILITY OF UNION PARTIES' POLICY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES;

(E) CDU AND CSU TO FORM COMMITTEE WITH 50-50 REPRESENTATION TO WORK OUT UNION'S STRATEGY AND POLICY, ESPECIALLY STRATEGY REGARDING FDP. CDU WOULD BE COMMITTED TO PERMIT ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ATTRACT AND WIN OVER VOTERS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO VOTE FOR CDU TO UNION IDEA. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF CSU OR CDU SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN OTHER POLITICAL GROUPINGS INCLUDING SO-CALLED "FOURTH PARTY" MOVEMENTS.);

(F) CDU PLEDGES THAT IT WILL NOT RPT NOT CHANGE FRG CONSTITUTION EXCEPT IN AGREEMENT WITH CSU;

(G) PERSONNEL, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS PLUS ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN WORK OF HANS SEIDEL STIFTUNG MUST BE SETTLED IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO CSU;

(H) CSU DELEGATION IS PREPARED AT ANY TIME TO NEGOTIATE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASIS OF THESE CONDITIONS (COMMENT: THIS MEANS THAT PRECEDING SEVEN POINTS ARE TO CONSTITUTE CSU AGENDA FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS.)

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE STRAUSS ALSO CALLED FOR CSU EXTRA-ORDINARY CONVENTION, TO BE HELD JANUARY 22, 1977. HE TERMED THIS HIS PERSONAL WISH.

4. COMMENT: STRAUSS MUST BE AWARE THAT PRICE HE ASKS KOHL

AND CDU TO PAY FOR RECONSTITUTION OF JOINT "FRAKTION" WOULD SEEM TO BE EXHORBITANT. HIS GESTURE SEEMS THEREFORE TO BE ESSENTIALLY TACTICAL, AIMED ON ONE HAND, AT PLACATING THOSE IN HIS PARTY (BAVARIAN MIN-INTERIOR MERK, MIN ECONOMICS JAU-MANN AND MUNICH CDU LEADER KIESL AND THEIR LOWER ECHELON ALLIES,) WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH KREUTH DECISION WHILE NOT, ON OTHER HAND, OFFERING TO SURRENDER ON ANY ISSUE OF SUBSTANCE. BY ADOPTING A MORE REASONABLE STANCE TOWARD CDU AND JOINT "FRAKTION", STRAUSS HAS MADE BID TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THOSE IN HIS OWN PARTY WHO OPPOSE KREUTH DECISION. (CONGEN'S INITIAL READING IS THAT HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN BROADENING HIS SUPPORT.) ADDITIONAL STRAUSS MOTIVE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN APPLICATION OF NEW PRESSURE ON KOHL, WHO MUST NOW REACT TO NEW CSU OFFER.

BETTS

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